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**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Sulcus is retracted from teeth prior to performing a dental procedure on the teeth by applying an expandible curable silicone compound to the surface of the teeth and preventing the silicone compound from expanding in a direction away from the surface of the teeth, thereby forcing the silicone to expand against the sulcus and forcing retraction of the sulcus from contact with the teeth.